

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: ALLIED REACTIONS TO ORLOV TRIAL

REF: USNATO 05416

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES POLADS WOULD BE INTERESTED
IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE TRIAL
POSED AT MAY 19TH MEETING WITH EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WITH MY APPROVAL,
HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. WE ARE DEEPLY
DISTURBED ABOUT THIS ACTION BY THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH
IN MY OPINION SUBVERTS THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI
AGREEMENT CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS. ORLOV WAS A SOVIET
CITIZEN WHO ORGANIZED A GROUP TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE
WITH THE SO-CALLED THIRD BASKET IN THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT,
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WHICH WAS SIGNED NOT ONLY VOLUNTARILY BUT WITH A GOOD
BIT OF PUBLICITY ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET UNION.

WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SEVERITY OF THE SENTENCE,
THE SECRECY OF THE TRIAL, AND THE APPARENT ABUSE THAT
MRS. ORLOV SUFFERED DURING THE CONDUCT OF THE TRIAL.
WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN IN CLEAR TERMS TO THE

SOVIET GOVERNMENT. END QUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT, POSTED MAY 18TH, FOLLOWS:
BEGIN QUOTE.

THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY DEPLORES THE CONVICTION AND SENTENCING BY A SOVIET COURT OF DR. YURIY ORLOV, THE LEADER OF THE MOSCOW PUBLIC GROUP, TO PROMOTE OBSERVANCE OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT IN THE U.S.S.R. THE HARSH SENTENCE WAS AGGRAVATED BY PROCEDURES AND ACTIONS DESIGNED TO HUMILIATE BOTH THE DEFENDANT AND MRS. ORLOV. YET THE CONDUCT FOR WHICH DR. ORLOV IS BEING PUNISHED WAS THE MONITORING OF THE PERFORMANCE OF (HIS) GOVERNMENT UNDER THE CSCE FINAL ACT. SUCH PARTICIPATION BY PRIVATE CITIZENS IN THE CSCE PROCESS SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY SIGNATORY GOVERNMENTS RATHER THAN REPRESSED BY THEM. TO PUNISH AS 'SUBVERSIVE', ACTIVITIES AIMED AT INCREASING FREE EXPRESSION OF OPINION AND AT PROMOTING GOVERNMENTAL OBSERVANCE OF FORMAL OBLIGATIONS SOLEMNLY UNDERTAKEN IS A GROSS DISTORTION OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS SET FORTH IN SUCH DOCUMENTS AS THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE UNITED NATIONS COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND THE CSCE FINAL ACT. END QUOTE.

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3. SEVERAL OFFICIAL AS WELL AS UNOFFICIAL VISITS TO THE SOVIET UNION HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED IN THE WAKE OF THE ORLOV TRIAL:

A. HEW SECRETARY JOSEPH CALIFANO ANNOUNCED ON MAY 30 THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 13TH - 19TH. SECRETARY CALIFANO CITED HIS "CONCERN OVER THE RECENT TRIAL AND SENTENCING OF THE PHYSICIST YURIY F. ORLOV AND THE CONTINUING DETENTION OF ALEKSANDR GINZBURG AND ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY..." SECRETARY CALIFANO ALSO INDICATED HIS EXPECTATION THAT US/USSR AGREEMENTS FOR JOINT RESEARCH IN HEALTH WILL CONTINUE.

B. NINETEEN AMERICAN PHYSICISTS SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN A US/USSR SYMPOSIUM ON CONDENSED MATTER THEORY CANCELLED THEIR VISIT ON MAY 19TH. THE VISIT WAS TO HAVE BEEN SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

C. SIX OTHER AMERICAN PHYSICISTS PLANNING TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE US/USSR ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT, DECIDED ON MAY 20TH TO

POSTPONE THEIR TRIP.

D. FIFTEEN AMERICAN HIGH-ENERGY AND NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS,

INCLUDING NOBEL LAUREAT DR. OWEN CHAMBERLIN CANCELLED
PARTICIPATION IN A ONE WEEK SEMINAR IN THE USSR
SCHEDULED FOR JUNE.

E. TWO DELEGATIONS OF CANCER SPECIALISTS (CANCER
IMMUNOLOGY AND CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY GROUPS) ON JUNE 1ST
CANCELLED PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES ALSO SCHEDULED
FOR JUNE.

F. AT LEAST FOUR INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN SCIENTISTS
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PROMINENT IN THEIR FIELDS HAVE ALSO CANCELLED OR
POSTPONED VISITS.

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